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# **PSYCHIATRY DESTROYS MINDS ECT: The Brutal Reality**

**Readers who want additional information are encouraged to contact the Citizens Commission on Human Rights.**

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## **Introduction:**

### **The Shocking truth about ECT**

Dr. Michael Chavin, anesthesiologist who assisted in 2,000 ECT procedures, now one of the most outspoken and active critics of electroshock

In 1992, after seven years of increasingly heart-wrenching and sickening observations while assisting psychiatrists with over 2,000 electroshock procedures at a regional medical center, the Director of Anesthesiology wrote to the hospital administration to declare that he could no longer be connected in any way with electroshock or psychiatry.

Within several months, the hospital administration itself decided to permanently eliminate both psychiatric services and electroshock (also known as "electro-convulsive therapy" or ECT) from the hospital.

What would cause such a sudden and decisive about-face?

Being the Director of Anesthesiology referred to above, I speak confidently in response to this question. With the December 6, 1995 USA Today expose on the "dramatic and sometimes deadly comeback" of electroshock" I also now speak urgently.

My decision was ultimately based on the realization that assisting with the procedure was in total violation of my pledge as a doctor to uphold the Hippocratic Oath to "do no

harm." That psychiatrists' insensitive and uncaring thirst to shock their patients in often assembly line fashion, amounted to no less than medical barbarism masquerading as medical care. That medical professionals, hospital administrators, health insurance industry personnel, government officials, the general public, in fact anyone who is willing to give any degree of credence to this so-called treatment, are unwitting pawns in perhaps one of the most tragic medical hoaxes of this century.

The information you are about to read is the true and shocking story about ECT -- the one that psychiatrists do not want told. It is designed to penetrate the veil of lies, deceit and even fraud used by psychiatry to protect its premier "cash cow" against any and all rational opposition; to disabuse, enlighten and thereby strengthen anyone who has never quite succumbed to psychiatry's propaganda that searing the brain with electricity could be in any way therapeutic treatment; and finally, to erase the ignorance that continues to guarantee nothing but misery and suffering for thousands of victims every year.

Why is ECT continually dogged by controversy? What is the real origin and history of ECT? What is it and how does it "work"? What really happens when the brain is subjected to hundreds of volts of raw electricity? Who profits from ECT? How is it that after decades of decline, ECT is rallying again? Why is it that women, the frail elderly and more recently children, are psychiatry's main targets for ECT? Where is the true weight of public and scientific opinion? Here you will find the answers to these questions and more.

Surveys of legislators and health insurance industry personnel in the United States reveal an appalling level of misinformation about electroshock. Deceived by psychiatry's propaganda machine, the majority are content to leave it up to the "experts." Whilst openly admitting that they have no idea of how ECT works, psychiatristS have no trouble in arrogantly assuming the mantle of "expert."

Having personally contributed to the horrors attendant to ECT, I have experienced the anguish involved in confronting the consequences of my own lack of awareness. What began as nagging doubt, and proceeded through intensive, personal research and investigation to find the truth, culminated in my professional disassociation from ECT **and** psychiatry -- the frustration of attempting to reason with psychiatrists led me to conclude that no separation was possible between profession and treatment. I eventually became convinced that the only time psychiatrists could bring themselves to admit harm from ECT, would be if the patient was electrocuted on the table while the procedure was videotaped and observed by a United Nations Task Force!

But who are the real victims and what is the real cost? With the hundreds of thousands of people being subjected to electroshock around the world each year, this is a story of ruined lives.

That is why I became a Commissioner of the Citizens Commission on Human Rights, one of the most outspoken and active critics of electroshock. In this campaign to have this violent abuse eradicated, I am joined by prominent doctors, educators and lawyers, as well as the friends and families of victims.

In response to a 1996 national television documentary on ECT, 79 percent of callers voted to have it banned. **The only real weapon is broad education.** And that is why I am speaking out. This is my appeal. Take responsibility to evaluate the information presented here. Form your own conclusions. There are very few, if any, that the tragedy of ECT does not touch. Once armed with the facts, I am confident that you will form part of the rapidly growing voice of protest that will be the final demise of this cruel and inhuman practice.

Sincerely,  
Michael Chavin, M.D.  
*American Board Certified Anesthesiologist*  
*Commissioner, CCHR International*

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